CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

A method of coating an implantable device, comprising:

adjusting the temperature of the implantable device to a temperature

other than ambient temperature; and

applying a coating substance to the implantable device.

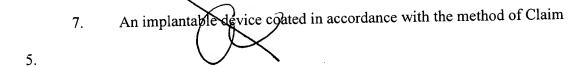
2. The method of Claim 1, wherein the implantable device is a metallic stent.

3. The method of Claim 1, wherein adjusting comprises increasing the temperature of the implantable device.

4. The method of Claim 1, wherein the coating substance includes a polymer dissolved in a fluid and optionally an active agent.

5. A method of coating an implantable device, comprising the acts of:
applying a composition including a fluid to an implantable device; and
directing a gas onto the implantable device to induce evaporation of the
fluid from the composition to form a coating on the implantable device.

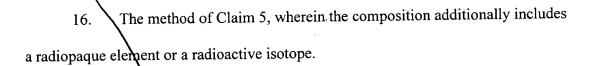
6. The method of Claim 5 additionally comprising repeating the acts of applying and directing to form a coating of a desirable thickness or weight.



The method of Claim 5, wherein the act of applying comprises spraying the composition onto the implantable device.

- 9. The method of Claim 8, wherein the act of spraying is performed at a flow rate of about 0.01 mg/sec to about 1 mg/sec.
- 10. The method of Claim 8, wherein the act of spraying is performed for a duration of about 0.5 seconds to about 5 seconds.
- 11. The method of Claim 5, wherein the temperature of the gas is about 25°C to about 200°C.
- 12. The method of Claim 5, wherein the act of directing is performed for a duration of about 1 second to about 100 seconds.
- 13. The method of Claim 5, wherein the act of directing is performed at a flow speed of about 0.01 m³/second to about 1.42 m³/second.
- 14. The method of Claim 5, wherein the composition includes a polymer dissolved in the fluid and optionally an active agent.
- 15. The method of Claim 14, wherein the active agent is actinomycin D, paclitaxel, docetaxel, or rapamycin.





- 17. The method of Claim 5, additionally comprising rotating the implantable device about the longitudinal axis of the implantable device.
- 18. The method of Claim 5, additionally comprising moving the implantable device in a linear direction along the longitudinal axis of the implantable device.
 - 19. The method of Claim 5, wherein the implantable device is a stent.
- 20. The method of Claim 19, wherein the stent is at least partially expanded during the acts of applying and directing.
- 21. The method of Claim 5, additionally comprising prior to the act of applying:

heating the implantable device, wherein the composition is applied to the warm implantable device.

22. A method of coating a stent, comprising the acts of:
spraying onto a stent a composition including a solvent, a polymer
dissolved in the solvent, and optionally an active agent;

applying a warm gas onto the stent to remove the solvent from the composition and form a coating on the stent.

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23. The method of Claim 22, additionally comprising repeating the acts of spraying and applying to form a coating of a desirable thickness or weight.

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